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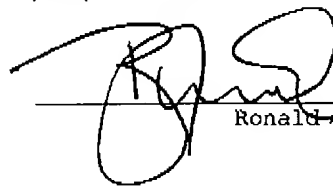
JUL 20 2004
OFFICIAL

PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/890,646 Confirmation No. 5225
Applicant : Shinichi AYABE et al.
Filed : August 2, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1638
Examiner : Russell Kallis
Dkt. No. : JKM-001
Cust. No. : 20374

I hereby certify that this paper (and enclosures) are being facsimile transmitted on July 20, 2004, to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to facsimile number (703)872-9306.



Ronald J. Kubovcik

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED APRIL 20, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 20, 2004

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 20, 2004.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider the remarks that follow.

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